

JUN 28 1961

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Gen. Taylor's Back in Uniform

Just what Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor's job as military adviser to President Kennedy will entail probably is a secret between the general and his boss. The post is a new one. President Eisenhower was his own best military adviser. He didn't need anyone to weigh his military problems.

It's presumed that Taylor's first big task will be to examine the Berlin problem. This supposition apparently is based on the fact that Soviet Premier Khrushchev has been threatening to designate Berlin as a demilitarized city all on his own. As a former U. S. commander in West Berlin and army chief of staff for four years, Taylor is an old hand at juggling the German issue.

But certainly Mr. Kennedy would not have summoned the general from retirement if the Berlin problem were all he had in mind. A good guess would be that the President feels the need of constant advice on military matters generally and the joint chiefs of staff and Central Intelligence Agency specifically.

Two of the three men on the joint chiefs of staff are being re-

placed within the next two months. That will leave only Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, the chairman, whose chances for being continued in that post next year are considered slim by some Washington observers. Rightly or wrongly, Lemnitzer has been vigorously criticized for failure of the Cuban invasion. It is conceivable that one of Taylor's main responsibilities for the next several months will be to act as liaison officer between the President and the Pentagon.

Taylor likely will have a major role to play in the anticipated reorganization of the CIA, since it was he who headed the study of that agency after the Cuban fiasco. It may be assumed that if paramilitary (guerrilla tactics, subversion, etc.) activities are taken away from CIA Taylor will have a great deal to say about where they will go—which could be the joint chiefs, or even a brand new agency.

One thing is certain—Taylor is not returning to official Washington to serve as anyone's window dressing. He's a blunt, outspoken soldier who is prone to take a critical look at everyone around and above and below him.